Title: Demand to provide financial aid to State Government of Karnataka to counter the unprecedented drought situation.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Sir, I rise to bring a matter of urgent and grave import caused by the unprecedented drought conditions prevailing in Karnataka in general and more acutely in majority of the districts including my constituency, Kolar. In majority of the districts including my constituency, there is a total monsoon failure, and as a result, there is famine, no drinking water, no fodder for cattle. Instead of cultivating the land the farmers are sending the cattle to the slaughterhouse. It is a grave situation in Karnataka.

The hon. Chief Minister has given a little relief out of the available funds to the farmers. He has taken certain relief measures in all the districts, out of the available funds, including the waiver of penal interest of Rs.243 crore for the farmers. He has requested the Government of India to release a sum of Rs.736 crore towards drought relief measures. He has also requested the Government of India to immediately release a sum of Rs.350 crore out of this amount. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India and request the Union Agriculture Minister to immediately release a sum of Rs.350 crore.

I also request the Union Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Rural Development to immediately visit Karnataka to see and assess the situation and release the amount of Rs.350 crore immediately as requested by the hon. Chief Minister. Thank you.